

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04934 231348Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20
/096 W

-----084607 232112Z /23

R 231237Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASH DC 2250
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4934

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, PINS, WA, SF
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SABC INTERVIEW WITH NAMIBIA POLICE
COMMISSIONER

SABC INTERVIEWER CLIFF SAUNDERS INTERVIEWED DIVISIONAL
COMMISSIONER FOR POLICE IN SWA/NAMIBIA BRIGADIER VICTOR
VERSTER ON AUGUST 21. THE SUBJECT OF THE INTERVIEW WAS THE ROLE
OF THE POLICE IN NAMIBIA. THE TEXT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SAUNDERS'
FIRST QUESTION, FOLLOWS:

SAUNDERS: (QUESTION MISSED)
VERSTER: ASSUMING THAT PEACE REIGNS AT THAT STATE, I
FORESEE NO PROBLEM WHATSOEVER.
SAUNDERS: YOU SAY THAT YOU ASSUME THAT THE POLICE WILL NOT

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HAVE TO DEAL WITH A SITUATION OF VIOLENCE. ARE YOU
REFERRING OVER HERE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
RESOLUTION?
VERSTER: I'M REFERRING TO THE RESOLUTION WHEREBY IT WAS
DETERMINED THAT IN THE INTERIM PERIOD THERE WOULD BE
A CEASEFIRE AND AS SUCH THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY
NECESSITY FOR INCREASED MILITARY OR TERRORIST ACTIVITY.

SAUNDERS: WILL THERE BE A NECESSITY, DO YOU THINK, FOR
INCREASING THE SIZE OF THE POLICE FORCE?
VERSTER; NOT IF THE RESOLUTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT TO THE LETTER.
SAUNDERS: BUT HOW ARE YOU GOING TO FILL THE GAPS WHICH HAVE
BEEN LEFT BY THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE MILITARY?
VERSTER; BUT, MY FRIEND, DO YOU SEE ANY NECESSITY
FOR THE GAP TO BE FILLED, ASSUMING THAT PEACE IS
GOING TO REIGN?

SAUNDERS; IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WILL BE CARRYING OUT NORMAL
POLICE FUNCTIONS?

VERSTER; NORMAL POLICE FUNCTIONS.

SAUNDERS; BRIGADIER, IT IS MENTIONED ALSO IN THE UNITED
NATIONS RESOLUTION THAT WHERE POSSIBLE THE POLICE
SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY UNITED NATIONS PERSONNEL-
THE POLICE IN PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES - NOW, HOW
WILL THIS WORK OUT IN PRACTICE?

VERSTER; I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT MOTIVATED THE INCLUSION
OF THAT PARTICULAR QUESTION IN THE RESOLUTION,
BECAUSE I CANNOT FORESEE ANY NECESSITY WHATSOEVER
FOR ANYBODY TO MONITOR THE DUTIES OF A NORMAL
POLICE FORCE DURING PEACE TIME.

SAUNDERS: THERE WILL BE THOSE WHO WILL SAY THAT IT IS
NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF THE POLICE
BEING GUILTY OF INTIMIDATION.

VERSTER; I THINK THAT IF AND WHEN OUR UNITED NATIONS FRIENDS DO
DECIDE TO MONITOR OUR NORMAL DUTIES, THEY WILL THEMSELVES FIND OUT IN
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A VERY SHORT TIME THAT THAT STATEMENT IS COMPLETELY FALSE.
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Message Attributes

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